

Water Quality Protection Division

Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 7**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 10, 2010

Reporting Period: May 10, 2010 1300 – May 11, 2010 1300

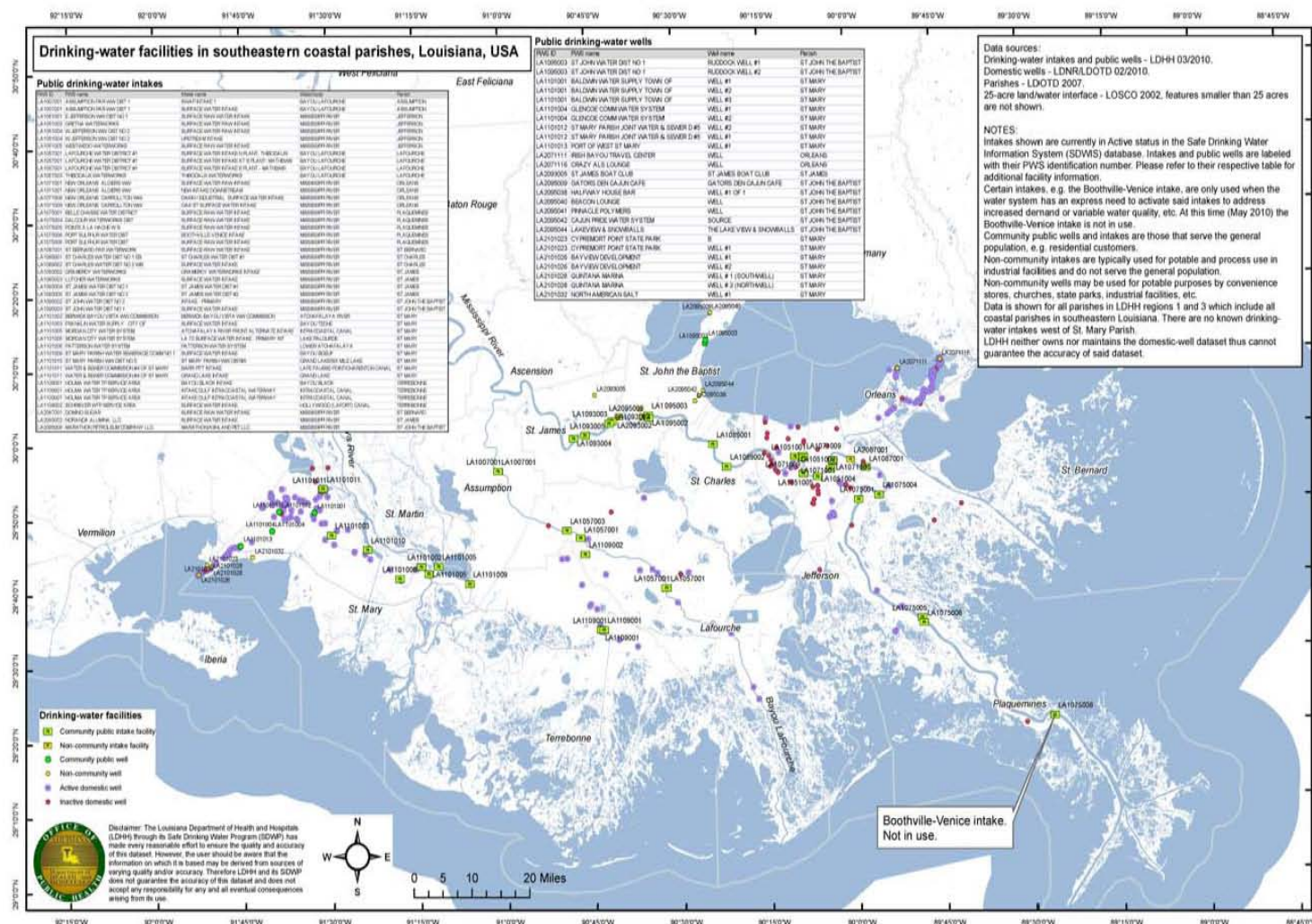
Situation Status:

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continued meetings with OW, R4, and Emergency Response
- Section chief in Baton Rouge with Division Director meeting on spill
- Coordinating with REOC on continued westward baseline sampling for additional selected sites. NOAA trajectory indicates westward trend of oil
- Continuing conference calls with R4 and HQ to address screening levels (i.e. toxicity, etc.) and data interpretation
- Staff working on adapting R4 sampling plans for future sampling activities

Drinking Water

- Responded to information requests concerning drinking water quality.
- Attached map (next page) is from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) and includes Southeastern Louisiana. The public drinking water system data is current and accurate, however, LDHH does not maintain a data set for domestic wells (wells owned by individuals and not regulated by LDHH/EPA) so the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.
- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted by the oil spill.
- The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) does not regulate industrial cooling or processing tank intakes nor do they regulate drinking water in offshore vessels or rigs.
- LDHH requested EPA water and sediment sample results. Coordinating a contact person through the REOC to provide that information to them.
- Continue to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.



Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- NOAA forecasts created on 5/9/10 at 2100 CDT for 5/10/10 at 1800 CDT forecasts the oil slick to be on the back side of the Chandeleur Islands, out in the Gulf of Mexico southeast of the Mississippi Delta, and along the Terrebonne shoreline. Satellite imagery (MODIS Aqua) analysis performed by NOAA and NASA confirms this. Additionally, the MODIS Aqua analysis indicates that the oil slick is approximately 1900 km².
- The oil slick is be carried west by the prevailing surface currents along that portion of the Gulf Coast. With the continued prevailing winds from the Southeast or East, potential oil contacts could reach as far west as Oyster Bayou on Tuesday and Atchafalaya Bay on Wednesday.
- It is anticipated that there may be shoreline impacts to several projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, including several EPA projects. Currently there is no additional information confirming if there have been actual shoreline impacts in Terrebonne or Barataria. Oil has been reported in the Chandeleur Islands. As more information becomes more readily available, this list could change.

Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

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Figure 1: NOAA Oil Slick Estimate provided in NOAA situational report for Deepwater Horizon incident at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Coastal Habitat Impacts

OW Ecological Impact Team:

- Completed the initial combined OW, Region 6, and Region 4 ecological impacts document for use by OW managers.
- Ongoing work on a set of ecological impact Q's and A's for EPA managers.

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Plaquemines Parish Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing coordination and analyses with OW, Region 6, and Region 4 regarding the coastal protection plan (“the Plaquemines Plan,” “the Dutch Solution”).
- Developed the feasibility and constructability issues associated with constructing an 89 mile long barrier island for a fact sheet.
- Provided regulatory Q & A on CWA 404 and CWA 404(b) General Permit for Emergency Operations

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Surface Water Center staff now has access to NOAA’s Environmental Response Management Application (**ERMA**) database.
- Ongoing GIS support efforts include mapping areas of tidal influence and locating potential water supply intakes using permitted wastewater discharges.
- Developed the feasibility and constructability issues associated with constructing an 89 mile long barrier island were provided to USEPA for a fact sheet.

NPDES

- Coordinated with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting questions asked by BP regarding oil recovery dome and relief well operations. In conjunction with 6RC staff, prepared a Q&A.
- Continuing work on ways to identify and provide information (including threat updates) and technical assistance to more vulnerable facilities with industrial water intakes (non-drinking water) being threatened by advancing oil slicks. Working to avoid facilities unlikely to be impacted (e.g., those up the Mississippi River) and avoid duplication of effort in contacting facilities.
- Identified list of facilities, based on data from the CWA 316(b) regulatory development process that have cooling water intakes in Region 6. Further identified those facilities within 0.5 miles of the Louisiana coast and working to identify those within 2 miles of the coast.
- NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch stands ready to provide technical assistance as needed.